

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 5 – 7, 12 - 23 are currently active in this case. Claims 1 - 4 have been canceled, Claims 8 – 11 have been withdrawn and Claims 12 – 23 have been added by way of the present amendment. Each new claim is supported by the specification and claims as originally submitted and no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), over *Miyashita et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,813,326, hereinafter *Miyashita*); and Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over *Miyashita*.

Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the allowance of Claims 5-7.

Applicants respectfully submit new Claims 16-23. Applicants respectfully request cancellation of claims 1 – 4 without prejudice. Each of new Claim 16-23 ultimately are dependent upon one of the allowed claims.

Based on the patentability of independent claims 5, 6, and 7, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 12-23 are also patentable.

Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and it is respectfully submitted that this case is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

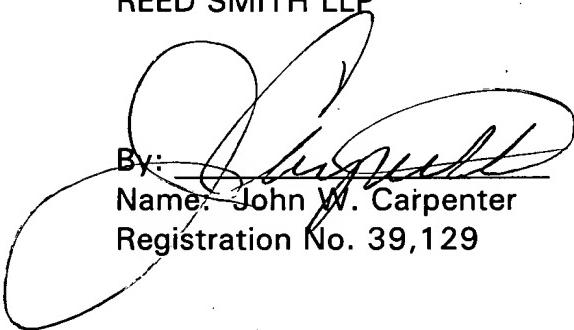
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Dated:

8/23/05

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